

Patient Resources/Important Information:

Patient Representative:

As in any large and complex system, communication can be a problem and misunderstandings can occur. Please contact the Patient Representative, Laura Cearnal, if you have any unanswered questions or feel there is a problem you would like to discuss. To reach the Patient Representative call 301-496-2626. Calls made to this number after 5:00pm or on weekends or holidays will be returned the following business day.

Please partner with us for safety. You as the patient and a partner in clinical research, play a vital role in making the care you receive safe. We want you to be an active, informed, and vocal member of your health care team.

Here are some additional resources that you may find helpful.

References

NIH, CC Policy Correct site identification for an invasive procedure/surgery

20 Tips to help prevent medical errors
<http://www.ahcpr.gov/consumer/20tips.htm>

Ways you can help your family prevent medical errors

<http://www.ahcpr.gov/consumer/5tips.htm>

Understanding Your Surgery: Ensuring Correct Surgery. Department of Veterans Affairs National Center for Patient Safety www.patientsafety.gov

National Institutes of Health
Clinical Center
10 Center Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20892



UNDERSTANDING YOUR SURGERY/PROCEDURE

Patient Safety for Clinical Center Procedures and Surgeries



This pamphlet will help you to understand what will happen before your procedure/surgery and how your doctors and nurses are taking steps to make sure that everything goes as planned.

**Days to a couple hours
before your sur-
gery/procedure...**



**Review the
Consent
Form before
you sign!**

The consent should be written in words you understand. Many of your questions will be answered by reading the consent. If you are not sure about anything, please ask! Below are some good questions for you to consider asking:

1. What is the name of the procedure that will be done?
2. Where or what body part will be operated on? Write down if it is the left or right side.
3. What are the risks, benefits, and alternatives to the procedure?
4. How long will it take to recover?
5. What is likely to happen if I don't have the surgery?
6. Who is in charge?

You will be asked to make a mark on the body part that will be involved in the procedure with ink that is difficult to wash off. It is very important for the doctors and nurses to see the mark just before the procedure. If you are unable to make a mark, a responsible adult with you will be asked to make a mark for you.



The doctor or other member of the procedure team will then initial the mark verifying the correct site. Generally, this mark will wear off in a few days. Please tell your doctor or nurse if these marks come off before your surgery/procedure.

**An hour, or less, before
the surgery/procedure...**

A doctor or other member of the procedure team will ask you to say your name, date of birth, and the part of your body that will be involved in the procedure.

Do not be alarmed by these questions; your doctor knows who you are. This is how they make sure they have everything right.

**Just before the sur-
gery/procedure begins...**

Just before the procedure begins, everyone in the procedure room will take a short "time-out" and check for the last time that they have the right patient, and they are doing the right procedure on the right body part. You may be asleep for this part.

